

I am indeed pleased to see this new band being considered but am somewhat concerned to see some of the previous comments and suggestions. In response to your questions concerning the band:

1. I do not feel that the power limit of 1500 watts is necessary for this frequency band, particularly since it will initially be used within the US or North America only. It is not for DX and prudent operation dictates the minimum power necessary, both for the reason of non necessity of high power to "reach out": to DX stations, and to preclude interference problems with other services, particularly outside the region. The present 200 watt limit on the 30 meter band has proven viable, and I suggest the same for the 5 Mhz. band.
2. This is a very narrow band assignment and I believe it should be limited to those who hold the Amateur Extra license, thus keeping the user numbers down to an acceptable level. This will also give incentive to lower class operators to achieve Extra class licenses.
3. The one very upsetting set of suggestions I see is that of no sub-banding on this new assignment. Take a look at 160 meters and you will see the present system does not work. There should be a simple delineation between narrow and wideband modes of operation. Do not depend on amateurs to avoid interference to each other because:
  - a. it is impossible to do so due to changing propagation. Quite often we have clear frequencies, start a QSO, and within minutes have interference from a separate QSO on the same frequency because the propagation has changed. Neither party is responsible for intentional interference. If one of the parties were using narrow mode digital operation, and the other was using SSB or SSTV, the narrow band operations would be destroyed completely.
  - b. some people just do not follow the "suggestions" of others and its better to avoid complaints than for the FCC to have to respond to them with official actions. I have personally lived and worked in several different areas of the world, where the local government agencies did not require subband operations. It is not pleasant to be working DX on 7.024 and have some local come up with her/his friends some 2 KC away with Kilowatt rigs and start a SSB QSO. When I complained, I was either ignored or told that they were only 3 KC wide and that the signals being only 1.5 kc below and above their selected frequency did not include my cw signal 2 KC below. This is indeed the attitude of many and just does not support sharing wide and narrow modes on the same frequencies. The rapidly rising use of the new digital modes and new operators coming online, also points to the necessity for expanded digital (cw PSK etc.) bandwidth. I do not feel that some of the previous suggestions of 50 KC for digital modes is wide enough for this new band. That is only 1/3 of the new band. With present operations, most of the bands work out with CW operators using approximately 1/2 of the subband, and other narrow digital modes the other 1/2 of the subband. I request that the digital subband be increased to 50% (75 KC) be assigned to narrow mode, and 75KC assigned for wideband modes. Hopefully, this band, as are the 30,17, and 12 meter bands, will not be used for contesting and normally would appear to be mostly for local QSOs, so there should be plenty of bandwidth for all modes of operation across the USA.